



# LEEWIN ESTATE

Margaret River, Western Australia



Simone Horgan

“Leeuwin Estate is one of the benchmarks, if not the reference point winery in Margaret River.”

Robert Parker’s *The Wine Advocate* (August 2003)

**OWNER:** The Horgan Family

**FOUNDED:** 1975

**WINEMAKER:** Tim Lovett

**SIZE:** 346 acres

**HARVEST:** End February to late April

**CLIMATE:** Mediterranean

**ANNUAL RAINFALL:** 47 inches

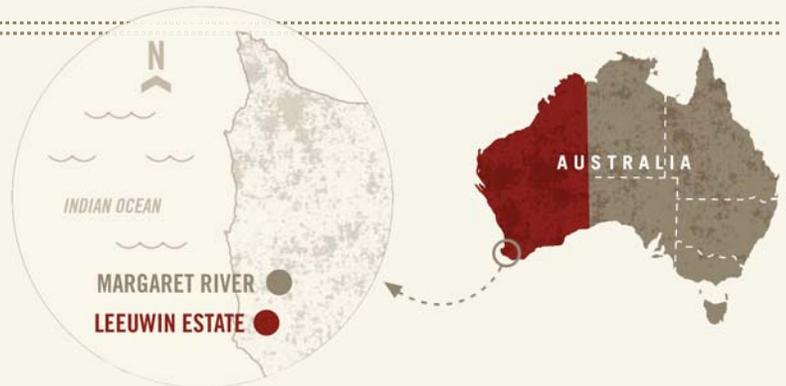
**SOILS:** Granite & gravelly sandy loam over lateritic subsoils

**VARIETIES PLANTED:** Chardonnay (97.4 acres), Riesling (61.3 acres), Cabernet Sauvignon (54.3 acres), Sauvignon Blanc (25.4 acres), Pinot Noir (12.5 acres), Petit Verdot (8.3 acres), Malbec (4.4 acres).

**WEBSITE:** [www.leeuwinestate.com.au](http://www.leeuwinestate.com.au)



Leeuwin Estate’s vines atop gravelly red soils, just two miles from the Indian Ocean



**PROFILE:** After an extensive search in 1972 to identify the most suitable Australian area for the production of premium varietal wines, Robert Mondavi singled out a small plot of land in the Margaret River region. At the time a cattle farm, Leeuwin Estate evolved under the direction of owners Denis and Tricia Horgan, with Mondavi acting as consultant and mentor. The Estate was thrust into the international spotlight when *Decanter* magazine awarded their highest recommendation to the 1980 Art Series Chardonnay. Now under the direction of two generations of the founding family, the Estate is recognized as one of Australia’s leading wine producers and wine tourism pioneers. Featured three times in the prestigious category of “International Winery of the Year” by U.S. Wine & Spirits magazine, Leeuwin Estate wines consistently rank alongside the world’s finest.

**VITICULTURE:** Situated at Australia’s most southwestern point and surrounded by ocean on three sides, Margaret River offers a consistent, maritime climate. Warm days are tempered by cool evenings, protecting the vines from extreme temperatures. The region’s ancient granitic base provides free-draining laterite gravel soils that are ideal for viticulture. Enjoying such a favorable grape-growing environment, Leeuwin Estate’s viticultural practices focus on minimal intervention. The Estate is planted to predominantly Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling; however, it is Block 20, Leeuwin’s greatest site, that bears fruit for the iconic Art Series Chardonnay. Situated on the lower slopes of a northwest facing, rolling gravelly hill, the twenty-five year-old vines are of the original Gin Gin clone. These tiny berries offer bright acidity and delicate, yet persistent, varietal flavor - the hallmarks of the acclaimed wine.



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# THE WINES

The wines of Leeuwin Estate are prized among collectors, a tribute to the ongoing commitment and focus dedicated to these great wines. Australia's leading wine auction house, Langton's, classifies the Art Series Chardonnay in the Exceptional category of Australia's top wines; their highest praise. The Art Series Cabernet is likewise ranked among Australia's best, in the Distinguished category.



## ART SERIES:

### Chardonnay, Riesling, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon

The Art Series range represents Leeuwin's most opulent and age-worthy wines. Identified with paintings commissioned from leading contemporary Australian artists, these wines continue to receive outstanding reviews from critics the world over.

## PRELUDE VINEYARDS:

### Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon

The Prelude Vineyards wines are produced from selected blocks bearing fruit of immediately expressive character. Embodying the vitality of Margaret River, they are approachable soon after release, but will also repay short term cellaring.

## SIBLINGS RANGE:

### Sauvignon Blanc Semillon, Shiraz

The Siblings range is a collection of vibrant, fruit-forward wines that show varietal typicity and are intended for early drinking. As a family business, this label celebrates the role the second generation has played in the ongoing development of Leeuwin Estate.

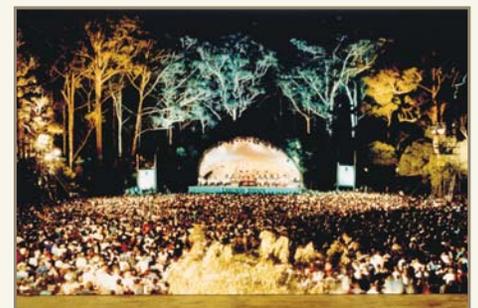
**WINEMAKING:** Under Mondavi's early direction, the Leeuwin Estate winery was established without compromise. Quality was the utmost priority; the aim, to produce premium wines that would compete on the world stage. Taking advantage of innovative technology, the winery was one of the first in the region to adopt temperature-controlled fermentation tanks, while only the best French oak barrels were imported for maturation. To this day, the winemakers take advantage of modern technology in their drive to achieve complexity, balance and longevity across the range. The result - Australia's most highly prized white wine: the Art Series Chardonnay.



The award-winning tasting room and restaurant



The Horgan family: (L-R) Denis, Tricia, Simone and Justin



The Estate's annual concerts are legendary